



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 911

DATE: June 1, 2010

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Dentists, Podiatrists, Rural Health Clinics, Clinics, Maternal Health Centers, Certified Nurse Midwives, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Nurse Practitioners and Indian Health Service Providers

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: High Technology Prior Authorization-Code Families

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2010

In consultation with providers and our Medical staff, the IME Policy team has authorized the establishment of “families” of procedures for the outpatient high technology radiologic tests described in Informational Letter 876.

With this change, **a Prior Authorization (PA) sought for any code that belongs to an identified family of codes will result in a PA for all codes in the family** (if the request is approved). A complete list of the code families is available on the IME PA webpage along with other useful information: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/PriorAuthorization.html>. This change is effective immediately for all dates of service.

For example, if a CT abdomen was requested, the PA would authorize the procedure without contrast, with contrast or the combination, regardless of which specific code was sought by the ordering provider. This should allow the radiologist the latitude to determine whether or not the second part of the order actually needs to be done without needing to order a new PA.

Any claims that the IME denied because the specific procedure code was not ordered, but a valid PA exists for a related family code will be re-processed automatically by the IME. The denied claims need to be identified, re-processed and considered by Medical Services; this process should be complete by June 30, 2010. Any claims automatically re-processed by the IME remain subject to any other applicable edits, of course.

The IME appreciates your partnership as we work together to serve the needs of Iowa Medicaid members. If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally (in Des Moines) at 515-256-4609 or by e-mail at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.